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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND  
AMERICANIZATION  
FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1933

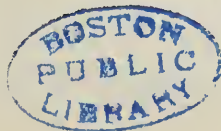
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PAYSON SMITH, *Commissioner of Education*

### DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION

MRS. NATHANIEL THAYER, *Director*

#### ADVISORY BOARD OF DIVISION

Miss Mary A. Barr, Boston

B. Preston Clark, Boston

Mrs. Charles H. Danforth, Jamaica Plain

Charles M. Herlihy, Fitchburg

Thomas A. Pappas, Belmont

Mrs. Eva Whiting White, Boston

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION AND AMERICANIZATION

On November 30, 1933, the Division of Immigration and Americanization completed its fourteenth year as successor to the Massachusetts Bureau of Immigration. The duties of the Division are imposed upon it by the General Laws, Chapter 69, section 11, and are outlined by statute as follows:

"The director of the division of immigration and Americanization with the approval of the advisory board thereof shall employ such methods, consistent with law, as in its judgment will tend to bring into sympathetic and mutually helpful relations the Commonwealth and its residents of foreign origin, protect immigrants from exploitation and abuse, stimulate their acquisition and mastery of English, develop their understanding of American government, institutions and ideals, and generally promote their assimilation and naturalization. For the above purpose, the division may co-operate with other officers and departments of the Commonwealth and with all public agencies, federal, state or municipal. It may investigate the exploitation or abuse of immigrants and in making any investigation may require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of books and documents pertaining to the matter under investigation."

#### ADVISORY BOARD CHANGES

Governor Ely appointed to the Advisory Board for the customary three-year term beginning December 1, 1932, Mr. Thomas A. Pappas of Belmont, replacing Judge Abraham E. Pinanski who had been a member of the Advisory Board since 1919. He also reappointed Mr. Charles M. Herlihy of Fitchburg for the usual three-year term.

#### SUMMARY OF THE YEAR'S WORK

25,809 applications for service were recorded at the various offices of the Division for the year 1933. Of the total, slightly less than one-half, 12,396, called at the Boston office of the Division.

13,413 persons sought assistance at the five branch offices of the Division; 3,486 at Springfield, 2,916 at Fall River, 2,507 at Worcester, 2,450 at Lawrence and 2,054 at New Bedford.

The clients of the Division were well distributed geographically throughout the Commonwealth as there were applicants listed from each of the 39 cities and from 233 of the 316 towns of the state. The Boston office received calls or letters from applicants from 205 localities; the Worcester office from 77 localities; Springfield, 54; New Bedford, 40; Lawrence, 39 and Fall River, 19. Naturally applicants living in the cities where we maintain offices came to us in the greatest numbers; Boston, 5,869; Fall River, 2,304; Springfield, 1,971; Worcester, 1,579; New Bedford, 1,521 and Lawrence, 1,194. The other cities in the Commonwealth showed applications as follows: Cambridge, 769; Somerville, 595; Lowell, 439; Taunton, 347; Newton, 313; Holyoke, 308; Everett, 304; Quincy, 301; Chicopee,

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291; Chelsea, 274; Medford, 253; Malden, 210; Westfield, 173; Fitchburg, 165; Revere, 139; Newburyport, 122; Waltham, 121; Gardner, 120; Salem, 119; Lynn, 115; Haverhill, 111; Attleboro, 110; Gloucester, 107; Peabody, 69; Woburn, 67; Melrose, 63; Pittsfield, 60; Northampton, 59; Leominster, 41; Beverly, 38; Marlborough, 30; Brockton, 25 and North Adams, 8. The towns showing more than 100 applications were Brookline, 358; Methuen, 137; Dartmouth, 113; and Ludlow, 108.

Fifty-six different nationalities were classified in the applications to the Division offices. Canadians were our most numerous clients, 6,233 of that group listed during the year. The national groups, including more than three hundred applicants per group, are Italian, 4,431; Irish, 2,921; Portuguese, 1,871; Polish, 1,694; English, 1,088; Hebrew, 757; Lithuanian, 513; Armenian, 509; Scotch, 501; Swedish, 495; Greek, 454; Newfoundlanders, 415; Syrian, 386; German, 344; Russian, 342. Among the other nationalities seeking our help were Albanians, Austrians, Belgians, Bulgarians, Chinese, Czecho-Slovak, Finnish, Lettish, Ruthenians, Spanish, Swiss, Ukranian and Yugo-Slavs. In addition to these large groups of foreign-born inquirers, 1,551 Americans inquired about immigration problems in general or the individual problem of their foreign-born friends and neighbors.

Inquiries concerning citizenship comprised approximately 66 per cent of the total; 17,136 persons sought information on that point or help in filling out applications for naturalization. Of the inquiries on naturalization, approximately 53 per cent came to the Boston office, or 9,053. The naturalization inquiries are recorded at the branch offices as Springfield, 2,166; Worcester, 2,015; Lawrence, 1,815; Fall River, 1,132 and New Bedford, 955.

The year 1933 has been one of considerable stress for the Division. Almost half of the year had passed before the continuance of the work, although on a somewhat curtailed basis, was made certain by an appropriation from the legislature. While many adjustments were necessary to live within the appropriation granted, there has been no entire abandonment of any activity in either Boston or branch offices. The volume of work for 1933 is certainly sufficient to indicate the need of continuance of the services for the foreign-born residents of the state.

At the time of the proposed abandonment of the work of the Division, the friends of the work rallied to its support by appearance at the hearings, communications with the committee and executive office. The Division is deeply appreciative of the interest of its well-wishers who are too numerous to mention in detail but comprised members of the legislature, of the Federal Immigration and Naturalization Service, the parish priests of the various national groups, social agencies, racial organizations, committees of various women's clubs and social organizations. We may quote an excerpt from a letter on the subject written by Congressman Pehr G. Holmes of the Fourth Massachusetts District. He sums up ably the justification of continuance of the work by the state for the foreign born.

"I realize that under the present restricted immigration law new immigration has temporarily practically stopped, but you will appreciate as well as I that the immigration already here should continue to be assisted. On the other hand, because of the present economic unrest there is even more need than otherwise for the Division of Immigration and Americanization to combat such objectionable activities as the spreading of communistic propaganda. Immigration and naturalization procedure at the present time is an extremely complicated matter, due to the new laws and amendments passed during recent years, and of course without some assistance it is impossible for the alien to prepare for naturalization. The argument is often advanced that the alien should attend to his own case or have it taken care of by private individuals or agencies. If such individuals or agencies could be controlled such a course might be feasible, but without the imposition of some regulatory measures the alien is left to the mercy of unscrupulous persons. Thanks to the work of your Division exploitation of aliens has been brought down to a minimum. The federal government, under the law, cannot assist those who desire to become citizens in the filling out of the applications that must be filed as a preliminary step, and agents of the Federal government cannot consistently act as advisers to the individual applicant."

## BOSTON OFFICE

## CITIZENSHIP

Approximately three-fourths of the persons who came to the Boston office sought information or assistance in problems of citizenship—the problem closest to the heart and interest of the immigrant. Many of those who sought information on this point were unable to take immediate steps for entrance into full participation of American life through the medium of naturalization because unemployment, financial reverses, and the economic crisis made it impossible for them to secure funds for naturalization fees. This temporary inability to meet the rising cost of naturalization is, apparently, nation-wide, as the number of certificates issued for the whole United States, as well as for Massachusetts, has shown a decided decrease since the raising of the fees in 1929.

An indication of the decrease of citizenship due to the present cost may be drawn from the following table of issuance of declarations of intention at the United States District Court at Boston. There is no educational requirement for the issuance of the declaration, and while since July, 1929, the declarants must show a legal record of arrival which can be found only if definite information on date of entrance can be given, it is probable that the decrease in number of declarations issued is due, more than any other cause, to the fact that, except for those who came prior to 1906, the declaration now costs ten dollars. Prior to July 1, 1929, it cost one dollar. Those who can prove they came prior to June 29, 1906, may secure a declaration for five dollars.

*Declarations Issued at the United States District Court at Boston*

|                     | 1928   | 1929  | 1930  | 1931  | 1932  | 1933  |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| January . . . . .   | 1,274  | 880   | 377   | 712   | 638   | 355   |
| February . . . . .  | 1,094  | 828   | 375   | 580   | 547   | 312   |
| March . . . . .     | 1,356  | 978   | 440   | 635   | 691   | 394   |
| April . . . . .     | 938    | 1,486 | 397   | 780   | 586   | 435   |
| May . . . . .       | 865    | 1,550 | 377   | 838   | 448   | 268   |
| June . . . . .      | 1,043  | 3,269 | 273   | 605   | 323   | 268   |
| July . . . . .      | 864    | —     | 373   | 547   | 421   | 243   |
| August . . . . .    | 969    | 12    | 193   | 394   | 474   | 252   |
| September . . . . . | 1,022  | 116   | 287   | 644   | 460   | 178   |
| October . . . . .   | 1,185  | 59    | 466   | 725   | 307   | 277   |
| November . . . . .  | 1,066  | 106   | 562   | 599   | 323   | 279   |
| December . . . . .  | 867    | 206   | 535   | 565   | 320   | 229   |
| Totals . . . . .    | 12,543 | 9,490 | 4,655 | 7,624 | 5,538 | 3,490 |

Of the 9,053 persons who sought assistance at the Boston Office on citizenship problems, 2,341 were aided in filling out applications for first papers, 4,294 for second papers, 41 in applications for derivative citizenship certificates, 157 requests for duplicate certificates, and the remaining 2,205 inquiries concerned individual citizenship problems and procedures.

## IMMIGRATION

1,984 persons sought information or assistance on immigration matters during the year. Of this number 448 sought help in securing some identifying document for Canadian travel and for these a certificate of identification was prepared giving the applicant's sworn statement as to date of arrival into the country, residence therein, and date of departure and prospective return. 196 were assisted in applying for re-entry permits to facilitate return from European travel. 110 citizens were assisted in filling out petitions for issuance of immigration visas for relatives abroad, 29 aliens were helped in applications for verification of arrival to establish a preferential status for their relatives abroad, and 425 affidavits were made out for relatives who sought to prove financial responsibility for persons they wished to bring to this country. 43 visitors in the state were assisted to apply for extension of their temporary stay here. 191 persons illegally here, but not deportable, were assisted to legalize their status by filling application for record of registry. 14 inquiries were made on cases in which deportation was pending. 529 persons conferred with the office on individual problems of immigration for themselves or their friends.

The same strict interpretation of the "likely to become a public charge" clause of the immigration law of 1917, together with the quota limitations of the 1924 law, have kept new immigration at a minimum. The statistics for the federal immigration year ending June 30, 1933, show that 23,068 immigrant aliens were admitted to the United States and 80,081 emigrant aliens departed with no intention of returning here. For every new alien admitted, therefore, for permanent residence, at least three left with every intention of remaining away. There are always, however, family problems of separation caused by immigration laws. The following cases are typical:

James B. . . . was born in New York City. While a child he was taken to Ireland, the home of his parents. When he was seventeen he entered the British Army. Wounded during the World War, he was honorably discharged from the British forces. He married in Ireland and two children were born there. In 1925 he came to Boston with his wife, leaving his children with their grandparents until he should become established here. Although he had steady work, was sober and industrious, his financial resources were not sufficient to convince the consul in Ireland that his children would not become public charges if they came to join him and visas were withheld. He felt that if he were an American citizen his children would receive preferential treatment, and he therefore applied for repatriation as an American citizen. He discovered, at that point, that he had never ceased to be a citizen of the United States as his entrance into the army of Great Britain was while he was still a minor, and the courts have ruled that there is no loss of citizenship by military service by a minor. Since he had never lost his American citizenship, his children, too, were American citizens as under our laws the children of an American citizen are citizens of the United States wherever their birthplace may have been. He has therefore forwarded documentary evidence of his American birth to the consular authorities and application for American passport for the children will be made.

Mildred A. . . . was born in Maine. In 1927 she married a native of Newfoundland employed in a successful business concern in her native city. One child was born of the marriage. Subsequently the business concern failed and the family came to Boston to make their home with relatives. Continued unemployment, illness and family difficulties made it necessary for them to apply for public relief. The investigation made at that time and subsequent report to the federal immigration authorities made deportation mandatory for the husband who had no legal entrance into the United States but had merely stayed permanently although his original admission was as a temporary visitor. Because of the peculiarly difficult circumstances in the case the man will be allowed to depart voluntarily and his wife will petition for his return legally.

Olga B. . . . a sixteen-year-old girl born in Boston married — with the full consent of her parents — a Lettish youth of twenty who was employed in a restaurant. He was, in fact, a deserting seaman and was subsequently apprehended and deported to his native country. He has no funds to send for her to join him there, and no means of supporting her. She can speak no Lettish and has no desire to live elsewhere than in the United States. She cannot petition for non-quota visa for him until she is of age. At the moment there appears to be no solution of this dilemma.

Rosina C. . . . was born in East Boston. Last summer she married an Italian, a fellow worker at the candy factory. He was subsequently deported to Italy as he had entered the country illegally. He is illiterate and will be inadmissible for that reason. He has prepared a home for her in Italy and she wishes to join him there but lacks funds for travel there as she has lost her work and has no savings. She was assisted in applying for federal relief funds for travel to join her husband.

#### WORK AT PIERS

The social workers of the Division's Boston office, Mrs. Tattan, Mrs. Lentino, Miss Levy and Mr. McInnes, met the various liners docking at Boston. New-comers have been rare but returning residents have frequently needed service.

The following excerpts from reports of pier workers indicate the type of work done and the conditions requiring continuance of social work at the piers:

"Assisted boy born in the United States but taken to Hungary when an infant. He spoke no English and could not understand German, Polish or Lithuanian. He had a letter indicating that he was destined to Greenock Road, Boston. Further investigation of letters and documents in his trunk disclosed the correct address to be Greenock Road, Boston, Pennsylvania. The purser on the boat had assumed it to be Boston, Massachusetts. A railroad ticket for Boston, Pennsylvania, was bought for him; he was put aboard the train and the Traveler's Aid sent a wire ahead so that he would be met at his destination."

"A passenger who engaged most of my attention was a lad of sixteen who was born in the United States but taken to Scotland during early childhood at the death of his mother. His father had not seen him since that time and doubted that he could recognize him although he had been sent a photograph. The reunion was happily made and the boy accompanied his father to his home in Haverhill."

"The SS. *Cameronia* docked at 11:30 P.M. We left the pier at 2:30 A.M."

"The MV. *Britannic* docked at 11:30 P.M. Passengers off pier at 1:30 A.M."

"Assisted in the reunion of Mrs. S., a former resident of Massachusetts, and her citizen husband. She went to England on a visit and because of illness neglected to secure a re-entry permit. She returned on consular visa, petition for which had been filled by her husband at our office. She was accompanied by her infant son born in England during her visit. He is, of course, an American citizen."

#### WORK WITH NEWCOMERS

Because of curtailed appropriation it has been necessary to suspend for 1933 the follow-up work with newcomers. Formerly the names of those arriving at Massachusetts ports and giving this state as their destination were copied from the steamship manifests kept at the federal immigration station at East Boston. This work, made possible by the co-operation of federal immigration authorities, could not be done this year as we lacked a clerical worker to send to the station. It is to be hoped that our appropriation for 1934 will warrant continuance of the work.

#### SUMMARY OF SERVICES GIVEN AT BOSTON

The ten most important services given by the Boston office in 1933 were:

1. Meeting incoming liners at docks;
2. Interpreting for non-English speaking residents in Italian, Polish, Lithuanian and Armenian;
3. Helping the foreign born solve their individual problems of adjustment to American life;
4. Giving expert advice on immigration problems;
5. Preparing travel documents to help alien residents return from abroad without difficulty with immigration laws;
6. Giving technical aid in naturalization problems;
7. Distributing a booklet for study in preparing for naturalization examination;
8. Investigating and referring to proper prosecuting authorities cases of fraud;
9. Keeping available up-to-date information on immigration, naturalization, etc. These information files are consulted by both native and foreign born.
10. Translating documents necessary for purposes of aid, identification, citizenship, etc.

#### FALL RIVER OFFICE

The beginning of the year 1933 found the Fall River Branch of the Division of Immigration and Americanization located in new quarters, housed in the same building with the other state activities. The change, which seemed radical, has proved advantageous from every standpoint. The office is excellently lighted and

ventilated, provided with a private consulting room and is admirably adapted for our work.

For several years past difficulty was experienced in securing office space in which our service could be provided for the foreign-born residents of Attleboro and vicinity. Through an arrangement made with the American Legion Post at Attleboro, their hall was made available for our use, one evening each month. With evening schools discontinued in that city increased need for our service seems inevitable.

Applications for service at Taunton showed no decrease during the year and the continuance of regular office hours in that city, each week, is indicated.

The discontinuance of all field work during the months of July, August and September, as an economy measure, was in no way detrimental to the work, and, in my opinion, this practice should be continued.

### *Citizenship*

The decision of the naturalization bureau that accorded to persons who were resident in the country, prior to 1906, the certificate of arrival exemption, was particularly welcome in this section, composed as it is of large numbers of Canadian French who have resided here for more than a quarter of a century.

The circularization of declarants, made at frequent intervals, brought a much higher response than that received the previous year. However, the number unable to complete their naturalization was sufficiently large to show that general conditions were still far removed from the normal.

Naturalization was stimulated to a marked extent in mid-year as the result of the National Industrial Recovery activities and the C. W. A. projects that were inaugurated during the past few months, resulted in an increase in this branch of the work.

The fact that practically all legislation enacted in recent years, affecting such matters as employment and old age assistance, specified preference for citizens, has served as nothing else could to impress upon the non-citizens what an untenable position he occupies. I am convinced that should the unemployment situation return to anything approaching its normal basis, a vast amount of naturalization work that has been accumulating for the past four years will tax the capacity of this Division.

### *Immigration and Emigration*

The executive order invoking the L. P. C. provision of the immigration law, issued by President Hoover to all American Consuls for the purpose of restricting immigration which is still operative, has necessitated a radically changed method of approach when assisting those who desire to bring relatives from abroad.

Unless the prospective immigrants were wives, minor children or aged parents of the applicant in comfortable financial circumstances, it was the attitude of this office to discourage persons in a seemingly useless effort that could only result in disappointment.

A marked improvement in the general employment situation that occurred here during the past six months was sharply reflected in our work by an increased demand for aid in bringing relatives from various countries and especially from Canada, Syria and the Azores.

Through representations made to the Polish Consul General, Mrs. S. of Taunton, a widow, a recipient of mother's aid, with her two children, were returned to Poland for a nominal sum. Through repatriation, the position of this family was improved and State funds conserved.

An American-born woman had lived in Canada with her Canadian husband and two children, for the past four years. She suffered a severe nervous collapse and her parents secured her admission to the United States as an American citizen, but her husband and children were denied this privilege. Convinced that the woman's precarious condition would be aggravated by the enforced separation from her children, an appeal was made, in behalf of this family, to the Consul at Quebec, Canada, supported by the statement of the mother's physician. Permission to re-apply was granted to the husband and children, and upon presentation of incontrovertible proof of his father-in-law's willingness and financial ability to care for the family, they were allowed to join the mother in this city.

*Miscellaneous*

The veterans of the city continue to use our service in large numbers. Several appeal cases were brought to successful conclusions.

Our contribution to the relief of unemployment was the work performed in completing Civil Service applications and various other forms, for persons not competent to complete their papers accurately.

*LAWRENCE OFFICE*

The Lawrence office during the past year followed the usual procedure of services rendered and localities visited as it has in previous years. Citizenship problems as usual brought the largest number of clients. The branch office in conjunction with the local post of the American Legion conducted the exercises in a local school at which naturalization certificates were awarded to the new citizens who took the oath of allegiance at the session of naturalization at the Superior Court in March and September.

The office assisted five members of one family, a father, mother and three sons, with their applications for first papers. In our experience covering a period of several years we consider this an outstanding case.

Another case of interest was that of three brothers for whom no record of arrival in the United States could be located. They proceeded with our assistance to file their applications for records of registry under the Immigration Act and were finally naturalized in the U. S. District Court at Boston. The total cost for them was at least \$110.00.

During the past year several applicants called for assistance in locating employment and in several cases, due to our contact with the mills, we were able to assist them with their problems.

A large proportion of the people included in the immigration figures were those who made application for certificates of identification for the purpose of visiting temporarily in Canada. These requests were less because of lack of funds and also because of the increased rigidity of the examination at the border. People to whom these certificates were issued reported on their return that the paper served its purpose.

The branch secretary has addressed organizations in regard to the work of our Division and the problems that confront the foreign born in their endeavors to become citizens.

*NEW BEDFORD OFFICE*

The number of cases handled in this office during the past year was smaller than that of other years. This was due in large part to the economic conditions which have existed in this district. The number of applications for naturalization was smaller; the applicants for permits to re-enter were fewer, as were the applicants for affidavits facilitating return from Canada. On January 1, 1933, two workers were dropped and smaller quarters obtained because of curtailment of appropriations.

*Naturalization*

There has been one great drawback to naturalization in addition to the high fees and economic conditions. This has been the inaccessibility of the Court to many who wish to file first papers. In Bristol County, the county seat is at Taunton and people from the more thickly populated cities of Fall River and New Bedford are obliged to make a special trip to Taunton to file a declaration of intention. In Plymouth County, declarations of intention may be filed at Plymouth or Brockton, but an extreme hardship is worked on those who live in the southern part of the county, that is Mattapoisett or Wareham. In Barnstable County declarations of intention are filed only in the town of Barnstable which is a considerable distance from Falmouth and Woods Hole. The advantages which were gained by the pre-filing arrangements for second papers have been greatly offset by the hardships imposed on those who apply for first papers and are placed at a distinct disadvantage by the distance to the Court and poor transportation facilities. There were but two places in this district in which Americanization classes were conducted.

### *Immigration and Emigration*

But two ships arrived in this port from the Cape Verde Islands during the past season. The total number of passengers was about a dozen and these were people in possession of American Passports or permits to re-enter the United States. A steamer leaving the port of Providence, R. I., accommodated the majority of those who made a trip to the Cape Verde Islands and they were returned, after a visit, to the same port. The number of new arrivals from all countries in this district did not exceed 150. The number of people visiting Canada from this district was considerably smaller than the number who left in other years. This was true also of the number of people who left the United States with the intention of remaining away permanently. The tide of emigration so noticeable for the past few years was considerably lessened in the past six months.

### *Miscellaneous*

In September, a bad situation which has existed for some time flared up considerably. Union organizers went to the hitherto unorganized bogs at Cape Cod and attempted an organization of all pickers. People engaged in this work are practically all blacks from the Cape Verde Islands. Since 1880 they have migrated to the Cape, encouraged to a great extent by bog owners who required cheap labor. Since the younger generation started to grow up it has been very much dissatisfied with the standard of living, and has resented the fact that there is no outlook for it, except the same existence which the older people endured. The average earnings per person in the bog district does not exceed \$350.00 per year and there has been a great deal of unrest for the past several years. Violence broke out in several places during the past season but things are very quiet at the present time. This does not mean an end of the problem.

### *Conclusion*

The same good will which has existed between this office and other agencies working in this district has been continued. The branch secretary has visited practically all localities in the district, has spoken at many meetings concerning the work and has received encouragement and assistance from all.

### SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

Applications for service have been received from 3,486 residents of Western Massachusetts during the year ending November 30, 1933. Fifty-four cities and towns were represented.

Extra service hours have been maintained as follows: Pittsfield, Mercer School, first Tuesday of each month; Holyoke, Aldermanic Chamber, City Hall, each Thursday afternoon and evening; Greenfield, Chamber of Commerce, first Monday of each month and Northampton, Chamber of Commerce, fourth Tuesday of each month.

As usual the Chambers of Commerce in Northampton and Greenfield have worked with us and have freely allowed the use of their offices in which to meet applicants. The School Departments have continued to assist and in addition in the city of Holyoke the Aldermanic Chamber, City Hall, has been available as in former years. We have been fortunate in this district in the large measure of co-operation which we have received from community groups and it has appeared during the last year that a greater interest in our work has been shown than ever before.

A tendency towards less discrimination against the foreign born who are not citizens has been noted. In a large measure it is believed that the action of the government in permitting those who have declared their intentions of becoming citizens to share in the employment on Public Works is largely responsible for the change in the general attitude. It has been a source of satisfaction to have been able to work with the directors of Public Works Programs in connection with foreign-born applicants for employment and beneficial results have come from this co-operation.

### *Citizenship*

Citizenship, which has become increasingly important in the last few years, has been retarded in many cases because of the lack of employment and the rather high fees. In our citizenship work we found a very fine spirit and a great deal of

regret among many because they have been compelled to postpone naturalization on account of economic conditions. This office has continued to maintain connection with the Posts of The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars in the District in connection with the Act giving special privileges to veterans of the World War. It has been found, however, that only a relatively small number have taken advantage of the opportunity.

### *Immigration*

Matters in connection with immigration, as during the past two years, have concerned almost altogether the efforts of residents of this country to bring their families here. The present requirements, however, have reduced the number of people entering the United States to a number which is almost negligible. Fewer requests from aliens in leaving the country have been received but we have continued to have some applications for repatriation.

### WORCESTER OFFICE

The third year of full-time operation of the Worcester branch office was completed on November 30, 1933, and, despite our greatly reduced budget, which necessitated a curtailment of our field service, we feel that we have had a very successful year. In 1933, our field work in Fitchburg was reduced from a weekly visit to a bi-monthly visit, in addition to which the monthly visit was retained for Gardner. In the summer months office hours were entirely eliminated in both cities.

There was no regularly scheduled field work in any other place in the district, although in the early spring we did some group naturalization work in Northbridge. During the year, residents of sixty-three of the seventy-eight communities in the district availed themselves of the facilities offered by our office. Requests for advice were also received from twenty-three persons who resided in fourteen communities outside of the district. These applications were largely from former residents of Worcester County, who naturally turned to our office for aid in their difficulties.

Approximately eighty-six per cent of the total applications for the year were made directly through the Worcester office, with nine per cent being cared for at Fitchburg and five per cent at Gardner. This proportion was normal for the time spent in each city, as in Gardner and Fitchburg, the time was used principally for interviews, and the greater part of the clerical work for the entire district was done in the Worcester office.

### *Citizenship*

For the last three years, applications in the citizenship classification have comprised a little more than eighty per cent of the total. The greater part of our citizenship work consists of furnishing advice and preparing candidates for their first and second papers. It is by no means all dry routine, however, and a review of our records for the year shows the unusual value of our service to the general public.

It is interesting to note the occupations of our various clients, which include among others, clergymen of various denominations, educators, legislators, newspaper men, attorneys, physicians, dentists, merchants, students, mechanics and laborers, who were referred to our office by friends whom we had previously aided, the newspapers, schools, social agencies, veterans' organizations, naturalization clubs, the postmaster in Worcester and other federal, state, county and city officials.

Some of these cases involved matters of doubtful citizenship and we were asked to give an opinion on whether or not the person in question was a citizen, and if not a citizen, the proper procedure necessary to secure citizenship in each specific case. In many cases the routine procedure required of aliens generally was not necessary, for example, women who had lost their citizenship through marriage, wives of citizens, widows of deceased declarants, war veterans, honorably discharged peacetime soldiers, aliens who had erroneously exercised the rights of citizenship and men born in the United States who had lost their citizenship by naturalization in a foreign country, where they had established a permanent residence prior to January 1, 1917.

A citizenship case that was rather unusual concerned a man who had served two

enlistments in the regular army of the United States. In the interval between his two enlistments, he had made his declaration of intention in Worcester. Unfortunately his first enlistment took place shortly after his arrival in the United States and following the custom observed in his native country, he enlisted under his father's given name as his own surname. He took out his first paper in his true family name and when he re-enlisted, to avoid confusion on his military record, he gave the same name as that shown on his first enlistment. Four months after his discharge from the second enlistment he called at our office to make preliminary application for his second paper and we advised him that he was eligible to apply under the special procedure authorized by the seventh subdivision of Section 4, Act of June 29, 1906, provided he could have his military record corrected, within six months of his discharge to show his true name. Affidavits were prepared and forwarded, with the applicant's finger prints, birth record and discharge certificates, to the Adjutant-General of the Army, in Washington, and correction of his service record was made in time for our client to file his citizenship petition before the time expired.

At the spring and fall sessions of the naturalization court, in the year just closed, 137 new citizens were admitted at Fitchburg and 641 at Worcester, a total of 778, approximately seventy per cent of whom had made their preliminary applications through our office.

### *Immigration and Emigration*

A little less than seventeen per cent of our total applications were included in this type of service and, as in the citizenship classification, the ratio of immigration and emigration applications was practically the same as in the two previous years. Certificates of Identification for Canadian travel accounted for more than one-quarter of the entire applications of this kind, the balance of the paper work being composed of furnishing affidavits of support and filling in the various forms printed by the Federal Government to use in making applications for re-entry permits, non quota and preference quota status, certificates of registry and extension of visit in United States. Less than one-half consisted of information furnished regarding immigration laws and regulations and many interesting cases were developed from requests for such information, which lack of space does not permit us to cite in this report.

### *Miscellaneous*

Miscellaneous information and complaints, also translations and notarial service, which included many affidavits of a special nature, have been grouped as miscellaneous service, as such service was entirely distinct from the other classifications mentioned above. Between two and three per cent of the entire number of applications were in this classification giving the same proportion as was shown in 1931 and 1932. The evil of exploitation seems to have been eliminated and no complaints of this nature were made to us for the entire year.

### *Conclusion*

Economic conditions improved somewhat during the year in Worcester County, taking a great part of the abnormal load from the welfare departments, but most of this improvement was noted in the large industries after the National Industrial Recovery Act went into operation, in the late summer and early autumn. Although employment is still far from normal, Worcester, because of its variety of industries, has probably received more benefit than other sections of the state.

We have had our usual pleasant relations and co-operation throughout the year with the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the various school directors and supervisors in the district, especially Miss Catharine A. McHugh, Director of Americanization in Worcester, Miss Margaret E. Kielty, Director of Americanization in Fitchburg and Miss Cora M. Leamy, Supervisor of Americanization in Gardner.

NATIONALITY CLASSIFICATIONS FOR ALL OFFICES  
FROM DECEMBER 1, 1932, TO DECEMBER 1, 1933

|                               | Boston | Fall River | Lawrence | New Bedford | Springfield | Worcester | Total  |
|-------------------------------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| African . . . . .             | 15     | 0          | 3        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 18     |
| Albanian . . . . .            | 95     | 0          | 0        | 8           | 5           | 56        | 164    |
| American . . . . .            | 584    | 326        | 166      | 98          | 223         | 154       | 1,551  |
| Arabian . . . . .             | 0      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 5           | 0         | 5      |
| Armenian . . . . .            | 330    | 5          | 87       | 0           | 33          | 54        | 509    |
| Assyrian . . . . .            | 0      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 2           | 8         | 10     |
| Austrian . . . . .            | 20     | 3          | 6        | 0           | 10          | 1         | 40     |
| Belgian . . . . .             | 19     | 1          | 15       | 2           | 1           | 0         | 38     |
| British . . . . .             | 5,831  | 1,187      | 1,298    | 788         | 1,119       | 1,066     | 11,289 |
| Australian . . . . .          | 3      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 2           | 0         | 5      |
| Canadian . . . . .            | 2,694  | 952        | 817      | 414         | 616         | 730       | 6,223  |
| French . . . . .              | 340    | 855        | 547      | 364         | 503         | 410       | 3,019  |
| Other . . . . .               | 2,354  | 97         | 270      | 50          | 113         | 320       | 3,204  |
| Newfoundland . . . . .        | 379    | 1          | 9        | 7           | 3           | 16        | 415    |
| English . . . . .             | 387    | 119        | 166      | 272         | 87          | 57        | 1,088  |
| Irish . . . . .               | 1,999  | 96         | 243      | 56          | 292         | 235       | 2,921  |
| New Zealand . . . . .         | 1      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 1      |
| Scotch . . . . .              | 253    | 17         | 63       | 35          | 112         | 21        | 501    |
| Union of So. Africa . . . . . | 1      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 1      |
| Welsh . . . . .               | 6      | 0          | 0        | 2           | 1           | 7         | 16     |
| West Indian . . . . .         | 108    | 2          | 0        | 2           | 6           | 0         | 118    |
| Bulgarian . . . . .           | 3      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 3      |
| Chinese . . . . .             | 2      | 1          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 3      |
| Cuban . . . . .               | 6      | 0          | 0        | 1           | 0           | 0         | 7      |
| Czecho-Slovak . . . . .       | 9      | 0          | 0        | 4           | 6           | 5         | 24     |
| Dutch . . . . .               | 15     | 0          | 2        | 0           | 10          | 8         | 35     |
| East Indian . . . . .         | 2      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 2      |
| Egyptian . . . . .            | 2      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 2      |
| Esthonia . . . . .            | 5      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 1           | 0         | 6      |
| Filipino . . . . .            | 12     | 1          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 13     |
| Finnish . . . . .             | 71     | 0          | 7        | 0           | 12          | 132       | 222    |
| French . . . . .              | 88     | 11         | 12       | 9           | 22          | 5         | 147    |
| German . . . . .              | 173    | 10         | 25       | 12          | 98          | 26        | 344    |
| Greek . . . . .               | 227    | 27         | 41       | 31          | 104         | 24        | 454    |
| Hebrew . . . . .              | 399    | 57         | 46       | 48          | 105         | 102       | 757    |
| Hindu . . . . .               | 2      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 2      |
| Hungarian . . . . .           | 9      | 1          | 1        | 0           | 3           | 0         | 14     |
| Indian . . . . .              | 0      | 0          | 1        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 1      |
| Italian . . . . .             | 2,602  | 145        | 355      | 74          | 903         | 352       | 4,431  |
| Lettish . . . . .             | 62     | 0          | 1        | 0           | 0           | 1         | 64     |
| Lithuanian . . . . .          | 291    | 0          | 66       | 1           | 21          | 134       | 513    |
| Mexican . . . . .             | 3      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 3      |
| Pacific Islander . . . . .    | 3      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 0         | 3      |
| Polish . . . . .              | 511    | 283        | 130      | 87          | 542         | 141       | 1,694  |
| Portuguese . . . . .          | 150    | 759        | 45       | 828         | 81          | 8         | 1,871  |
| Rumanian . . . . .            | 14     | 1          | 1        | 0           | 3           | 5         | 24     |
| Russian . . . . .             | 242    | 14         | 28       | 3           | 47          | 8         | 342    |
| Ruthenian . . . . .           | 1      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 1         | 2      |
| Scandinavian . . . . .        | 345    | 17         | 10       | 33          | 63          | 164       | 632    |
| Danish . . . . .              | 22     | 4          | 2        | 2           | 3           | 2         | 35     |
| Norwegian . . . . .           | 78     | 2          | 0        | 7           | 5           | 10        | 102    |
| Swedish . . . . .             | 245    | 11         | 8        | 24          | 55          | 152       | 495    |
| South American . . . . .      | 31     | 1          | 0        | 4           | 6           | 2         | 44     |
| Spanish . . . . .             | 28     | 1          | 0        | 2           | 7           | 2         | 40     |
| Swiss . . . . .               | 3      | 1          | 0        | 1           | 7           | 0         | 37     |
| Syrian . . . . .              | 9      | 63         | 100      | 20          | 34          | 40        | 386    |
| Turkish . . . . .             | 25     | 1          | 1        | 0           | 8           | 4         | 39     |
| Ukranian . . . . .            | 9      | 0          | 3        | 0           | 5           | 2         | 19     |
| Yugo-Slav . . . . .           | 3      | 0          | 0        | 0           | 0           | 2         | 5      |
| Total . . . . .               | 12,396 | 2,916      | 2,450    | 2,054       | 3,486       | 2,507     | 25,809 |

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR SERVICE FOR ALL OFFICES  
FROM DECEMBER 1, 1932, TO DECEMBER 1, 1933

|                                   | Boston | Fall River | Lawrence | New Bedford | Springfield | Worcester | Total  |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Bank . . . . .                    | 6      | 10         | 1        | 0           | 2           | 0         | 19     |
| Citizenship . . . . .             | 9,053  | 1,132      | 1,815    | 955         | 2,166       | 2,015     | 17,136 |
| Compensation for Injury . . . . . | 20     | 21         | 1        | 4           | 36          | 0         | 82     |
| Emigration . . . . .              | 182    | 3          | 60       | 78          | 146         | 6         | 475    |
| Employment . . . . .              | 260    | 72         | 9        | 11          | 45          | 3         | 400    |
| Financial Aid . . . . .           | 64     | 15         | 3        | 2           | 24          | 5         | 113    |
| Immigration . . . . .             | 1,984  | 937        | 476      | 862         | 751         | 411       | 5,421  |
| Interpretation . . . . .          | 186    | 0          | 0        | 0           | 2           | 0         | 188    |
| Miscel. Complaint . . . . .       | 389    | 19         | 9        | 33          | 66          | 12        | 528    |
| Miscel. Information . . . . .     | 62     | 597        | 50       | 65          | 180         | 13        | 967    |
| Notarial Service . . . . .        | 172    | 110        | 13       | 41          | 64          | 40        | 440    |
| Translation . . . . .             | 18     | 0          | 13       | 3           | 4           | 2         | 40     |
| Total . . . . .                   | 12,396 | 2,916      | 2,450    | 2,054       | 3,486       | 2,507     | 25,809 |



